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Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02329

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: ARRANGEMENTS WITH MAJOR HADDAD

1. IN BRIEF MEETING ON JUNE 7 WITH AMB LEONARD, UN UNDER SECRETARIES-GENERAL URQUHART AND GUYER AND SECRETARIAT MIDDLE EAST SPECIALIST JAMES JONAH EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS WITH CHRISTIAN FORCES AND MAJOR HADDAD. URQUHART REMARKED THAT ISRAEL WAS CONTINUING TO PRESS THE UN ON QUESTION OF SAFETY OF CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON. HOWEVER, UNNY HAS LEARNED THAT GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IS ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS TO HADDAD THAT HE SHOULD FACILITATE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES AND "KEEP HIS TROOPS IN CAMPS AND MILITARILY INACTIVE". IN ADDITION, GOL ORDERS REINSTATE HADDAD
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UNDER LEBANESE MILITARY AUTHORITY.

2. URQUHART SUGGESTED THAT A U.S. APPRAOCH TO THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. HE ASKED WHETHER WE COULD CONVEY TO THE ISRAELIS THE IMPORTANCE OF HADDAD'S COOPERATING WITH UNIFIL AFTER THE IDF WITHDRAWS. IMPLICIT IN URQUHART'S SUGGESTION WAS THE HOPE THAT WE

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WOULD BE ABLE TO COME BACK TO HIM WITH A MESSAGE THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE TAKING A REASONABLE ATTITUDE AND HAD PASSED ON TO HADDAD SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL.

3. LEONARD RESPONDED BY POINTING OUT THE RISKS OF PLACING THE ISRAELIS IN THE POSITION OF ACTING AS GO-BETWEEN WHENEVER PROBLEMS AROSE BETWEEN UNIFIL AND HADDAD. MORE IMPORTANT WAS BOLSTERING LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH. LEONARD SUGGESTED THAT LEBANESE ARMY LIAISON OFFICER (OR SMALL UNIT OF LEBANESE MILITARY) MIGHT BE ASSIGNED TO UNIFIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORKING OUT OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH HADDAD AND THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA. URQUHART REMARKED THAT THE LEBANESE LT. COL. STATIONED AT NAQOURA, WHO TRIED THIS, WAS ARRESTED BY HADDAD; HOWEVER, HE AGREED THIS SUGGESTION SHOULD BE WORKED ON AGAIN.

4. COMMENT: IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE SUGGEST EMBASSY TEL AVIV MAKE APPROACH TO GOI TO ENCOURAGE HADDAD'S COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL AND WITH GOL. WE DO NOT FEEL, AND UNNY SHARES THIS VIEW, THAT THE GOI IS LOOKING FOR REASONS NOT TO WITHDRAW. DESPITE OUR CAUTIOUS RESPONSE TO URQUHART, WE BELIEVE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIFIL AND HADDAD IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL AND THAT OUR APPROACH COULD THEREFORE BE HELPFUL. YOUNG
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